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(71)Applicant : TOSHIBA CORP

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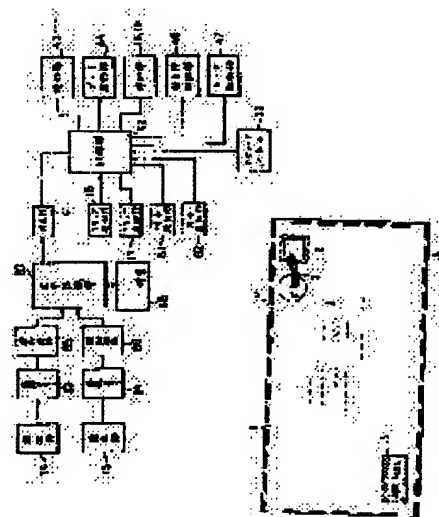
(72)Inventor : HIROSE NOBUYUKI

(54) FRONT SURFACE AND REAR SURFACE DECIDING DEVICE FOR PAPER

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To correctly decide a front surface and a rear surface of a postal matter by reading and recognizing an air mail mark on paper or the like by the first and the second reading means and the first and the second extracting means provided in opposition on both side section of the carried papers or the like and deciding which reading means reads.

CONSTITUTION: When a postal matter P on which red or blue color oblique line marks 10 are alternately and continuously printed on circumferences of a front surface and a rear surface is carried, reading sections 14, 15 read only blue signals of respective surfaces to feed to image memories 83, 84. Then, detecting circuits 85, 86 detect candidate blocks considered to be air mail marks 5 from the respective surfaces, detect, and segment and normalize respective character patterns by one character, sample to output to a character recognizing section 87, carry out a matching with a reference pattern to a normal direction or a reverse direction alphabet in a dictionary 88 and the recognition results are outputted to a deciding section 41. When it is decided to be the air mail mark, the judging section 41 decides the front and the rear surfaces by the recognized air mail mark 5 being read by which of the reading sections 14, 15.



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